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**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC  
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Dear Stakeholder,

As a current or potential licensed itinerant merchant or as a downtown stakeholder, we would like to share with you proposed changes to Bloomington's "Itinerant Merchant, Solicitor and Peddlers" licensing legislation (Title 4-Business Licenses) as well as changes to potentially related "Temporary Use" permits (Title 20-Unified Development Ordinance). Please take some time to review these changes and contact us by August 21, 2014 with your feedback and questions. We hope to finalize changes so we can update local legislation later this Fall in an effort to keep our code current and effective.

The proposed changes would affect the following:

- Push carts (including food carts) operating on public or private property
- Mobile vendors (including food trucks) operating on public or private property
- Solicitors (including door-to-door peddlers, mobile vendors selling goods or services other than foods/beverages) operating in public or private property

Our intent with these changes is to eliminate confusion as to the types of licenses a particular vendor is required to obtain, to streamline licensing processes where possible and to create greater opportunities for the use of mobile vending at special events and on private property. With more effective regulation, we hope to encourage these activities – which we believe enhance the vitality and commercial activity in our community – while continuing to ensure the promotion of the public interest and guarding of public safety and welfare.

**Clarify the types of licenses required**

New chapters in the code for "Mobile Vendors" and for "Pushcarts" better define the distinct types of mobile merchants. In addition, "Solicitors" is redefined to include peddlers, helping to settle confusion on any distinction between the two where licensing requirements are concerned.

**Streamlining the licensing/permitting process**

Itinerant merchants licensed under Title 4 will no longer be required to also obtain a Temporary Use permit (currently required under Title 20).

**Create more opportunities for special events and uses on private property**

Currently, Temporary Use permits under Title 20 restrict this type of activity to 15 consecutive days on private property. By exempting from the Temporary Use restrictions pushcarts, mobile vendors and other solicitors which will still be licensed under Title 4, mobile merchants will have greater opportunities to conduct business on private property with more frequency throughout the year.



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Additionally, when participating in a special event approved by the Board of Public Works, mobile vendors are not required to obtain a mobile vendor license. This means that mobile vendors or pushcarts that provide food or beverages as part of other festivals (or even a festival of food trucks!) could do so without additional city permitting as long as the event itself has gained Board of Public Works approval.

To view current drafts of the proposed legislation please visit

[http://bloomington.in.gov/documents/viewDocument.php?document\\_id=320](http://bloomington.in.gov/documents/viewDocument.php?document_id=320). You'll find the following drafts at the above webpage:

- Draft of Chapter 4.16 – Solicitors
- Draft of Chapter 4.28 – Mobile Vendors
- Draft of Chapter 4.30 – Push Carts
- Draft of Temporary Use UDO Changes

In addition to the enhancements highlighted above, other changes include updates to Location Restrictions, Safety Requirements, Business License Prerequisites, fees and more. I hope you will review the entirety of the proposed legislation changes.

To view a copy of the current ordinance as a comparison please visit

<https://bloomington.in.gov/code/> and the click on “Chapter 4.16 ITINERANT MERCHANTS, SOLICITORS AND PEDDLERS”

I appreciate your time and consideration. I can be reached at 812-349-3419 or [carnesj@bloomington.gov](mailto:carnesj@bloomington.gov) for any comments you may have.

Thank you,

Jason Carnes  
Assistant Economic Development Director, Small Business Relations